

SO CAL DX BUL



The Newsletter of the Southern California DX Club est 1947

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor. Bill, n6rv@scdxc.org (Some articles may be copyright.) Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur.

Repeater: W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL
Please check the Club web site at <http://www.scdxc.org>



Aug 2009



NEXT MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2009, 1930 HRS

SUMMER BASH
August 23, 2009 at
W6YI 1130 HRS
See the web site for directions

Making friends all over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio.
Sponsors of the International DX Convention at Visalia, since 1949

THE PREZ SEZ



Hello Everyone....Another month gone by and the conditions are still not the best but I did pick up 2 new countries since last report. How about you?

Don't forget to make your Visalia reservations early! The committee is moving forward to making another great convention. Remember.....Nobody does it better then us! hi...hi...

Last meeting we had Chip for our speaker and he did a great and very interesting presentation on DX'ing in extreme conditions. What adventurous people they were!

I am sure Arnie has another good one lined up - so please bring a friend or someone new that is interested in Ham Radio. Meetings are open to anyone!

Come join us for August with good friends, presentations, snacks and an all around great time!
What else could you ask for?

Thanks all...See you in August!
Tom N6OT
President SCDXC

Attached you will find an amazing story about communications in a WW2 Japanese prison camp.

It is the ultimate field day. It is quite long so save it to your computer and read it a little at a time if you like.

submitted by Bill, N6RV

ARNIE'S BLARNEY FOR AUGUST 2009

Arnie Shatz, N6HC, Vice-President – Southern
California DX Club

n6hc@aol.com Or n6hc@scdxc.org



Things have certainly heated up in Southern California...the weather, not the ham bands. There have been some sun spot sightings, but not enough to stimulate wide-open bands for DXing. I guess we will all need to continue supplicating to the propagation deity.

Thanks to Chip Margelli, K7JA, for a sterling presentation at the July meeting. The mere mention of the Chipster brought out many members to that meeting.

The membership also opened up their wallets for the raffle since there seemed to be a few gifts that provoked great interest. Gary Gray, W6DOE, was the proud recipient of the hardback Peter I Island signed DXpedition book, generously donated to the club for the raffle by John Thompson, K6OHM. It was great to see John at a meeting after a multi-year hiatus. Don't be a stranger, John, and congratulations on your new acquisition of a Yaesu FT-950 transceiver. Other raffle winners included Joe, NZ6L, who went home with a Heil footswitch, headphone cushions, and a discount certificate from DX Publishing. Mel, K6SY, won a discount certificate for the K1BV DX Awards Directory and the Callbook CD. Rich, W6VX won a discount certificate from DX Publishing and a Heil headset carrying case. Sharon, K6IRD, won two tickets to Knott's Berry Farm, which were donated by Eric from the HRO-Burbank store. Jeff, K6JW, scored two bags of coax connectors and toroids. Lee, AC6AJ, took a Heil footswitch back to his shack. El Presidente, Tom, N6OT, is the owner of a new two position coaxial switch. Bringing up the rear were Len, W6AUG, who won headset cushions; Bill, N6MXU, who won a discount coupon for the CD Callbook; Joe (K5KT) and George (N6VNI) who won DX Publishing discount certificates; Don (K6DSW), Hank (W6HTW) and Tom (K6THH) all won K1BV DX Awards discount certificates. Even your Vice-President Arnie, N6HC, got lucky and won a two-position coaxial switch and a Heil lightweight headset with boom microphone. For the first time in a very long time, the raffle was in the black. Congratulations to the winners and club members who entered the raffle.

Steve, W6NRQ, sent a survey last month to tabulate how many BULLETIN subscribers actually read the publication. So far there has been a 37% response and everyone who answered stated that they are reading the newsletter. Thank you for the feedback and your kind words of encouragement.

Our August 13 general membership meeting will feature Dick Norton, N6AA. Our Southwest ARRL Director will split his presentation between his 3X5A DXpedition experiences and the latest news from the last ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Newington. Dick does a yeoman's job of representing our interests with the League and still finds time to take a yearly DX trip to far away places so that we can get another multiplier in our DX contest log.

Don't forget the August 23rd BBQ bash hosted by the San Diego DX Club at the QTH of Jim Stevenson, W6YI. Directions to Jim's house are posted on our web site. I hope everyone can find the time to attend the get-together for fun, feasting and fellowship.

Here is a "heads-up" for our members who have limited station and/or antenna capability. The Midway Island DXpedition (K4M) in October-2009 plans to operate

CW, SSB, RTTY and BPSK31. Most major DXpeditions concentrate on the CW and SSB modes with some RTTY tossed in for good measure and rarely devote time to other modes of operation. You don't need a lot of power with BPSK and with a modest aerial, you should be able to work us ahead of the big boys from the east coast and Midwest. If you are already playing with BPSK, I hope I get to enter your call in the electronic log. If you are not yet versed in BPSK, you have ample opportunity to gear up for this mode. Please direct any questions that you might have regarding BPSK set-up or operation to me or one of the other club BPSK users. We are also taking moonbounce and six-meter equipment and I suspect we will have a beacon set up. Stay tuned for more details and check the DXpedition web site periodically (www.midway2009.com).

Lastly, the Board of Directors has voted to sponsor achievement plaques for the ARRL DX CW contest in February, 2010 and the ARRL DX SSB contest in March, 2010. This will mean more favorable public relations recognition for our club within the amateur radio community at large and specifically within the DX and contesting communities.

Best regards, Arnie N6HC

Final reader survey stats.

Sent	176
Returned	70
Read all	70
Browse and read	5

Thats a 41 % return. I think a great response. Thanks for taking the time to respond and taking the time to read our newsletter. We appreciate your business. HI.
Steve



THE EDITOR

Is it August Already?

Well I hope everyone enjoyed Field Day. It seems funny to ask this question since Field Day was in June. It was quite an effort for our local club, URAC. I also heard that several SCDXC members went south and joined OCAR for the event.

From what I have heard they put forth a pretty good effort and enjoyed a few beverages and cigars! The one disappointment that remains is the lack of interest from the youth or parents who would bring their children. We however did have an inactive American ham that lives in Thailand and his two sons join us at URAC. They manned the GOTA station and were fantastic when it came to set up and tear down. They boys enjoyed operating and I think we will see them on from HS!

We have had a fairly benign month as far as DX is concerned. Again my efforts have been looking for new ones on HF and 6 meters. Six meters consistently amazes me. I worked CT1HZE for the second time on multi-hop sporadic E (Es). Currently OX3LX is on from the Southwest region on Greenland and has worked into the East Coast. The Washington state hams also had a great season working both Europe and South America. This is an Es first for them. This season has permanently changed my perspective on Es propagation! I will keep one station planted on six meters from May to August. Congratulations to all the DXpeditions and operators that spent significant time listening and operating the magic band. As more 6 meter capable radios are put into service the population of the band will increase and more here to with unknown openings and propagation modes will be discovered. It is great to see our insight and understanding increase.

I just read in The Daily DX that solar astronomers are predicting a year delay in the start up of this solar cycle. The downside is cycles that are delayed significantly have lower peaks. This does not bode well for long haul DX on 15 meters and above in the coming years. The upside is that they do not think we are going into another Maunder Minimum. The Maunder Minimum was period in the middle ages where the sunspots became scarce for about 300 years! Think what that would do to hobby! Probably there would be some new innovative designs for directional antennas on 80 and 160 [W]! Another benefit of the delay is we all will have more time to finish those antenna projects and prepare for the peak. A lot can be done in a year!

Aside from all the DX activity or lack of, it has been pretty busy time for our family. Last Monday we became grandparents. Our daughter and her daughter are both doing well! Watching her go through that ordeal reaffirmed that I am grateful for being born a male. Giving birth, though a joyous event, is really no fun for the mother! We will be on vacation for the week of the meeting and the summer bash. Now that we are both retired we will attempt to eliminate these conflicts. It seems August is not the month to go on vacation. I hope everyone enjoys the meetings and the bash!

Finally Steve will be passing the publishing duties over to me starting next month. This will hopefully be a smooth transition. It will be a super big push in September as I will be on vacation. Hopefully by October we will be steaming full speed ahead!

De Bill, N6RV



Do you remember this?
Support your 2010 convention committee

Submitted by Gary, WB6PSY



Anaheim, California

By Arnie Shatz, N6HC
Vice-President, SCDXC

Gary Gray is one of the newest members of the Southern California DX Club having joined our ranks in May 2009. He is an Extra Class licensee who lives in Anaheim, California.

Gary is a true native Californian. He was born in Orange, California in 1942. He attended Anaheim Union High School followed by Fullerton Junior College where he earned an AA degree. He then matriculated at California State University, Long Beach, earning a BS and MS in electrical engineering. He is married and had two children, a daughter and a son (SK). He has 4 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He worked for the County of Orange for more than 40 years and retired from full time employment in 2004 as the Chief Telecommunications Engineer/Engineering Manager. Gary now does part-time consulting.

His uncle was licensed as W6DOE in the early 1930s. Dalton Atherton (SK – N6GQZ), who lived in Fullerton, was a friend of his father. Both men inspired Gary's initial interest in amateur radio as a youngster. In addition, Gary worked at the Leo Fender guitar factory while he was a high school and college student. One of the employees taught an electronics course at the factory. In 1963 Gary earned his initial call sign – WB6HUG and utilized the vanity call sign program to honor his deceased uncle by claiming the W6DOE call sign in 1996.

I had the pleasure and honor to validate Gary's QSL cards for his first DXCC certificate in July 2009. He has also earned the Worked All States and Worked All Continents awards. He is a Life Member of the ARRL and the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He likes to chase DX and has been known to jump into an occasional radiosport competition to help out the hardcore contesters.

He has a modest station setup consisting of a Kenwood TS-870, a Cushcraft R-7 vertical, a twenty meter inverted vee, an attic dipole for 30 meters, a tri-band VHF/UHF collinear (144-440-1200 MHz) and an attic ground plane for 220 MHz. He has a Kenwood TL-922 amplifier, which he uses very sparingly.

Gary is active in the Southern California Repeater & Remote Base Association, which coordinates frequency use for remote base and repeater stations on frequencies above 29 MHz, except for the 144 MHz and 220 MHz bands.

He also is a member of the Public Frequency Coordination Committee that manages frequency allocations for state and local governmental agencies such as the police, fire and emergency medical services.

Gary is a past president of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International. APCO represents the interests of public safety services to the FCC and Congress. He has testified on behalf of these agencies before the Public Utilities Commission regarding frequency coordination issues.

He spearheaded the APCO Project 25, which established land mobile digital radio standards for interoperability between and among various public safety services.

Amateur radio runs thick in the blood of the Gray family. Gary's wife, son, daughter, brother, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and two grand daughters all have amateur radio tickets! Over the years, there are at least 50 individuals with whom he has worked either through the County of Orange or APCO that can thank him for assisting them in earning their amateur radio licenses.

He is also a Senior Member of IEEE, and a Fellow of The Radio Club of America.

Welcome to the club, Gary. We are pleased to count you as a member and look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Dear Friends at Southern California DX Club:

As you know by now, there is a multi-national team of eighteen highly experienced DXpeditioners that will activate Midway Island this October. Dave WB4JTT, and Tom N4XP, are our skilled co-leaders.



Because of Midway's unusual circumstances dealing with US Governmental controls, it has not been active since 2002. Before that period, activity was sparse. We will operate as many as six radios on all bands from 160 through 6 meters on CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV.

Team Members: AA4NN, DJ9ZB, EA1IR, EA1DR, K9CT, KH7U, N1DG, N4PN, N4XP, N6HC, N7CQQ, W6KK, W6OSP, W8CAA, W8GEX, WA7NB, WB4JT

ATTENTION SCDXCers.

The Midway Island DXpedition in October 2009 will be very well represented by several members of our club. Check out the web site www.midway2009.com <<http://www.midway2009.com>>

Franz Langer	DJ9ZB	Honorary Member
John Kennon	N7CQQ	Associate Member
Charles Spetnagel	W6KK	Active Member and 2009 DXer of the Year
Arnold Shatz	N6HC	Active Member and 2009 SCDXC Vice-President, SCDXC

These same four DXpeditioners represented the club in 2005 on the K7C (Kure Island) DXpedition team.

Submitted by N6HC



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